

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A device for controlling a speed of a motor vehicle in terms of one of (a) a constant distance control in the case that at least one preceding vehicle is detected by a radar sensor and (b) a constant speed control in the case that no preceding vehicle is detected by a radar sensor, the device comprising:
  - an arrangement for allowing a distance to a preceding vehicle to be set by a driver of the vehicle in the form of a time gap; and
  - an arrangement for changing longitudinal dynamics of the speed control when the time gap changes.
2. The device according to claim 1, wherein a change in the time gap allows different driving programs to be selected.
3. The device according to claim 1, further comprising means for increasing, given a decrease in the time gap, at least one of a maximum possible vehicle acceleration and a maximum possible vehicle deceleration implementable by a speed control system.
4. The device according to claim 1, further comprising means for first activating, given a decrease in the time gap, deceleration devices of the vehicle at a shorter distance from the preceding vehicle.
5. A method for controlling a speed of a motor vehicle in terms of one of (a) a constant distance control in the case that at least one preceding vehicle is detected by a radar sensor and (b) a constant speed control in the case that no preceding vehicle is detected by a radar sensor, the method comprising:
  - setting a distance to a preceding vehicle by a driver of the vehicle in the form of a time gap; and
  - changing longitudinal dynamics of the speed control when the time gap changes.